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APPLICANTS

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** CONTINUING DATA *****

NON

** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****

NON

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED

** 10/03/2003

Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	STATE OR COUNTRY OH	SHEETS DRAWING 10	TOTAL CLAIMS 13	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 3
35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance	Examiner's Signature <i>[Signature]</i>	Initials <i>[Initials]</i>		
Verified and Acknowledged				

ADDRESS

FROST BROWN TODD LLC
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TITLE

Surgical stapling instrument incorporating a tapered firing bar for increased flexibility around the articulation joint

FILING FEE RECEIVED 880	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees (Filing) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees (Issue) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit
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